

REMARKS AND CONCLUSIONS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments and remarks submitted herein. Claims 45-58 have been canceled. The Examiner indicated allowability of claims 29-44 and 59-62. Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance be issued for claims 29-44 and 59-62.

Although a Petition for a Three-Month Extension of Time is enclosed with the fee of \$980, Applicants submit that the fee and extension of time are inappropriate for the following reasons. The Final Office Action was mailed on April 19, 2004. Applicants responded to the Final Office Action on June 17, 2004, which is within the two-month period for early reply. The Advisory Action was mailed on September 16, 2004 and indicated that the "period for reply expires 6 months from the mailing date of the final rejection." According to MPEP §706.07(f), if Applicants respond within two months from the mailing date of a Final Office Action and if an Advisory Action is not mailed until after the end of the three-month shortened statutory period (SSP), then the SSP will expire on the date the Advisory Action is mailed and any extension fees will be calculated from the mailing date of the Advisory Action.

In this instance, the Examiner did not adjust the SSP to reflect the mailing date of the Advisory Action. Applicants submit that a Petition for a Two-Month Extension of Time and appropriate fee should be all that is required. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request a refund in the amount of \$530, which corresponds to the difference between a two-month extension of time fee and a three-month extension of time fee.

In view of the above, please apply such a credit to Deposit Account No. 06-1050. If any charges are necessary, please apply such charges to Deposit Account No. 06-1050 as well.

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Respectfully submitted,

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